

Contents

Foreword	vii
Acknowledgments	ix
Introduction	1
1. Army Engineers and Western Expansion	11
The Texas Frontier	12
The Gulf Coast Engineers	18
“The Best Harbor on the Texas Coast”	22
The “Cement Pot Jetty” Experiment	27
2. The Stubborn Sandbar	37
Galveston Island — Threshold to the Southwest	37
The Galveston Engineer Office	41
Where Is That Eighteen Feet of Water?	45
Deep Water at Last	51
3. Transformation of the Sabine	59
The Disputed Boundary	59
Early Harbor Improvements	61
The Troublesome Canal Permit	64
Oil: A New Dimension	67
The Dallas District	68
Idiosyncrasies of the Inland Canal	75
4. Buffalo Bayou Bonanza	91
A Pioneer Vision	91
First Federal Survey	95
Morgan’s Controversial Cut	97
The Buffalo Bayou Project	99
Determination for Deep Water	100
Houston Ship Channel	106
Industrial Influx	111
5. Proliferation of Ports	119
The Port That Sulphur Made	120
Progress at Aransas Pass	126
El Paso de los Brazos de Santiago	137

6. Navigable Waterways: A Continuing Responsibility	151
The Great Connection	151
First Texas Segment	154
National Policy Lends a Hand	156
The Last Link	161
From Mudshell to Metal	166
The Work Goes On	171
7. The Military Mission	177
The Harbor Defenses of Galveston	177
An Unprecedented Challenge	186
A System of Airfields	187
Engineers Shoulder the Entire Load	193
Fortifications for the Gulf Coast	195
The Military Finale	198
8. The Inanimate Enemy and the Corps	211
A New Realm of Activity	211
Help for the City of Houston	214
Flood Control, Fort Worth, and Flood Plain Management	220
Protection against the Sea	224
9. When Disaster Strikes	237
Catastrophe Leads to Seawall Construction	237
"An Unavoidable Accident"	251
On Hand for a Holocaust	254
Hurricane Operations	258
10. Reconciling Progress with Ecology	267
New Life for an Old Law	267
Maximizing Natural Resources	272
A Delicate Balance	277
Appendixes	
A. Galveston District Engineers	284
B. Staff Conferences	288
C. A Brief History of Galveston District Headquarters	292
D. Galveston District Organization Chart	296
E. Cargo Movement through Texas Coast Jetty Channels	297
Bibliography	299
Index	307